

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
506 Fletcher Trust Building  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
May 28, 1936

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

With reference to my teletype to the Bureau dated May 28, 1936, having to do with the Black Legion, and a statement appearing in the Indianapolis Times, Indianapolis, Indiana, issue of May 28, 1936, stating that the Black Legion was being investigated in Indianapolis by U. S. Department of Justice agents at the request of Detroit authorities, permit me to attach here-to for your information the news item and a kindred item over a Detroit date line of May 28 (UP).

It is my understanding that this Bureau Office is not to interest itself in the Black Legion, or its activities, unless its activities are in violation of a Federal Statute over which this Bureau has basic investigative jurisdiction, and that this office is not to interest itself in making investigations even when the facts indicate Federal Statutes over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction, until the information has been submitted to the Bureau, and the Bureau thereafter issued instructions to make an investigation.

In other words, no activity is to be engaged in by this office in the absence of Bureau instructions.

Very truly yours,

*John A. Dowd*  
JOHN A. DOWD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

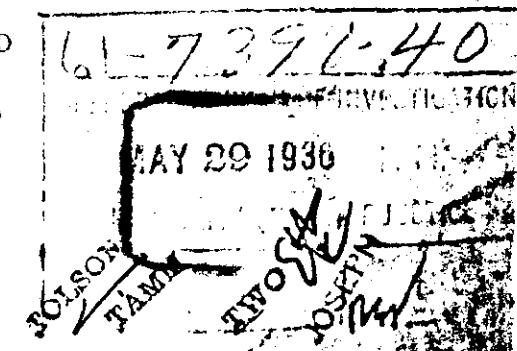
2 enclosures

JAD:LW

AIR MAIL

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JUN 3 1936



5-28-36

**U. S. Reply to Detroit Plea  
for Aid Is Delivered  
to McCrea.**

**12 MEN ARE SOUGHT**

**15 to 18 States Involved  
in Movement, Belief  
of Authorities.**

By United Press

DETROIT, May 28.—The Federal government replied today to an invitation to enter the investigation of the night-riding, terroristic society, the Black Legion.

Prosecuting Attorney Duncan C. McCrea pressed his search for 12 fugitive Legionnaires, whose arrests may bolster his charge that the cult accused of responsibility for killings and floggings is operating actively in 15 to 18 states and particularly in New York City and Chicago.

The Federal government's reply was delivered by Harold H. Reinecke, head of the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, whose chief is Atty. Gen. Homer S. Cummings, whom McCrea petitioned yesterday for Federal intervention.

Reinecke refused to hint as to the nature of the reply, saying that McCrea was the person to make it public.

As he delivered the reply there came evidence from Lima, O., that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had looked into the Black Legion as far back as 18 months ago.

**Interviewed by G-Man**

William H. Smith, an Ohio farmer who was kidnaped and beaten by Legionnaires on Sept. 29, 1934, said he was interviewed by a Department of Justice agent who told him: "You'll be called upon to tell your story in court at the proper time."

With a mass of evidence already compiled McCrea intimated that the 12 men being sought were of great importance to his investigation.

At Jackson, a grand jury resumed its investigation of Legion activities there. The jury already had issued warrants for the arrest of 25 men accused of kidnaping and flogging Harley Smith who was forced to join the Legion and beaten when he ~~wanted~~ to attend one of its meetings.

**Grand Jury Probes Planned**

Atty. Gen. David H. Crowley having initiated a one-man grand jury inquiry in Wayne County (Detroit and environs) returned to Lansing to plan similar proceedings throughout Michigan.

In petitioning Atty. Gen. Cummings for Federal aid yesterday, McCrea said:

"I know definitely that the Black Legion is operating in 15 to 18 states. I know that it is very active in the cities of New York and Chicago. I have reason to believe that the activities of the Legion have included the hauling of bodies across state boundary lines, which is a Federal offense."

He told Cummings that his evidence showed that "many serious crimes have been committed in states other than Michigan."

"Of course, I am unable to investigate these," he said, "and for that reason I have sought the aid of the Department of Justice."

**12 Other Hunted**

McCrea's investigators and six members of the Detroit Homicide Squad were searching for the 12 fugitive Legionnaires.

At Jackson, Smith, the Black Legion victim, threw a new light on the organization's techniques. He said:

"Two neighbors invited me to a party about a year ago. I went and pretty soon we got to a place where there were three men in robes. They called themselves Black Knights. One man held a gun against me and they gave me the oath. I was scared. I can't remember the oath, but they did give me a bullet and one of them said, 'The next one we give you will be out of a gun.'

**Lashed by Group, Report**

"I went to one meeting after that. When they told me there was going to be another meeting, I said I couldn't go to it. Well, about last November some of them came around to my house and said, 'Your superior officer wants to talk to you.' I went out to their car. They pushed me into the back seat. They drove about a mile. They told me to get out of the car. They took me into a house and tied my hands. Somebody said, 'What's the verdict—guilty or not guilty?' They ~~said~~ 'guilty' and somebody said, 'six lashes.'

"They pulled my shirt off. They gave me six lashes. It felt like a blacksnake whip. It hurt. Then they put me back in the car and we drove a while. We were near my house.

"They took off the blindfold and told me to walk home. I went to one meeting after that—in December. I've been a nervous wreck ever since.

61-7398-40

INDIANAPOLIS TIMES  
5-28-36

## ~~'Legion' Messages Found at Apartments~~

Comments: We have recognized in this paper  
a difference between the two types of  
fossils in the same environment, and  
we think that it is possible  
that the difference is living  
and the difference is dead.  
In the fossil record we have  
not seen any fossils like this, so  
of the living organisms - bones  
from the living organisms.  
So we must find and will find  
the jaws in the living before August.  
So we are going to do now!

A lieutenant will call at your house to-morrow night in robe. Give your comandery to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him.

MAY 22

61-7398-40

IN  
CIVILIAN  
I WILL NOT GIVE AWAY OR DISCLOSE  
BY WORD OR WRITING OR ACTION,  
I BETRAY ITS SECRETS OR ITS  
DOCTRINES  
THE BREAKING OF A LAW OR THE  
DISCLOSURE

0107

Block 20 or 10

INDIANAPOLIS TIMES  
5-28-36

# **G-MEN PROBE 'BLACK LEGION'**

## **HERE**

### **ALLEGED TERROR NOTES ARE LEFT AT LOCAL HOMES**

## Messages Promise Calls

Will Be Made 'at Night  
in Robe.'

## LIKE MICHIGAN NOTES

Indiana Infested With Ar-  
dent Members, Says  
Detroit Prosecutor.

(Copyright, 1936, by The Indian-  
apolis Times)

Notes purporting to be from "The Black Legion" were found last night in Indianapolis and today were being investigated by United States Department of Justice agents at the request of Detroit authorities.

They were found in two near-North Side apartments, stuck in doorknobs. The notes promised the occupants that representatives of "The Legion" would call "at night in robe" to accept their memberships.

Duncan MacCrea, Wayne County, Mich., prosecutor, about whom centers the main probe of the organization's known activities, told The Indianapolis Times today that the notes bore marked characteristics of known Legion documents now in possession of authorities.

"We know definitely," he said, "that Legion members do appear at night in robes both to recruit new members and to force delinquent members to attend meetings.

### "Sound Authentic," He Says

"The Indianapolis notes sound authentic to me, and I am asking Department of Justice agents, assigned to me by Atty. Gen. Homer Cummings for this investigation, to immediately probe the Indianapolis angle.

"I have already had several confidential communications from the Indianapolis area, which lead me to believe that the Legion is organized there and has been responsible for at least one outrage.

"There is no question in my mind, or in the minds of my associates, but that Indiana is infested with ardent Black Legion members."

The notes, found yesterday afternoon, each consisted of two pieces of paper. One was a salmon pink bond paper, six by four inches. On it was typewritten what was interpreted to be a membership blank. It read:

"Black Legion Membership." There followed blank lines for age, name, address, both city and state.

## "Death Is Penalty"

Under that appeared:

"Oath:

"In the name of God and the Devil I will stand up to the Black Legion. I will follow my orders and will abide (misspelled) by the laws of the Black Legion. Never shall I betray its secrets or its ex-members.

"Death is the penalty for the breaking of a law or its oath."

This was followed on one note by the designation "611X7" and a blank preceded the word "Rank." The other note bore the number "610X7."

Last of all, at the bottom, appeared "Black Legion-611X7." The other note's number was "610X7."

### Message Is Typed

Inside was a piece of cheap white paper, about the same size, upon which was typed the following message:

"Comrade:

"We must reorganize quickly. We suffered a shock that has broke our stride but we will get back to our feet and rush on through the night and show them how (apparently, typing error) it is done.

"The Chief has given the order:

"Fellow comrades we must not give up. We must make the symbol of the skull and cross-bone the terror of the world.

"We must and will take the law in our own hands by August."

"Please sign up now!

"A Lieutenant will call at your home soon (at night in robe). Give your membership to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him."

"MAJOR 29K1."

### Imprint of Stamp

On each document was the imprint of a stamp in purple ink. The design had 16 points connected by seven circles. Indianapolis rubber stamp manufacturers said they believed no such stamp was manufactured and suggested that it may have been cut from cork.

The imprint, they said, did not appear to have been made by rubber.

The two pieces of paper were folded lengthwise and fastened by what appeared to be gummed paper tape similar to that used in groceries.

The occupant of an apartment at which one of the notes was left denied all knowledge of it. He said

he knew of no one who would have sent it either in earnest or jest.

At the same time, Lima, O., authorities disclosed that records of the Black Legion, in possession indicate that the organization went by various names in the different states and were designated as "Red Legion" in parts of Indiana, and "The Black Brigade" in West Virginia.

From Fort Wayne came information that an organization there, believed to be closely connected with "The Black Legion" was called "The Black Snakes."

O.P.Y.

POST OFFICE BOX 2118

DETROIT - MICHIGAN

May 27, 1936

Special Agent in Charge  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

A local newspaper writer called this writer's attention to a dispatch from Washington, D. C., which advised that United States Representative Clare Hoffman, Allegan, Michigan, had received a threatening letter which was mailed from Benton Harbor, Michigan, May 4, 1936.

This letter was apparently written by a crank and evidently has some connection with the Black Legion investigation now being conducted by State authorities in the State of Michigan.

An attempt was made to reach Congressman Hoffman at his home in Allegan, Michigan, but this writer was advised that he is presently in the City of Washington, D. C.

You are requested to contact this Congressman at once and ascertain the circumstances surrounding the receipt of this letter and whether or not it is the type of threatening letter over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

For your information, the Detroit office has received instructions from the Bureau that no investigation is to be conducted relative to "The Black Legion" without a specific authorization from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

J. H. Reinacker  
Special Agent in Charge

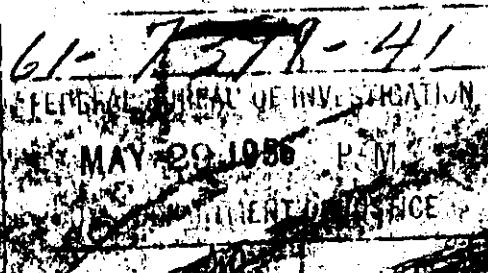
JDC/rrm  
CC - Bureau

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

RECORDED

INDEXED

JUN 1 0 1936



ORIGINAL FILED IN

## U.S. Considers Joining Inquiry

*Cummings, to Confer  
with G-Man Hoover*

*(From the Free Press Bureau)*  
WASHINGTON, May 27—Attorney General Homer S. Cummings will reach a decision within 24 hours on sending G-men into Michigan to investigate the Black Legion, his office announced here tonight.

A telegram was received from Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, of Wayne County, asking that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation be sent into the state. Cummings will confer tomorrow with J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, and announce his decision as to whether Federal matters are involved.

Before he received the telegram, Cummings announced that he had been following the investigation of the Black Legion through the newspapers, and that as far as he could see no Federal jaw was involved.

Rep. Clarence E. Hoffman, of Allegan, today made public a letter in which he was threatened with death because of his opposition to the Townsend movement in Michigan. The letter was signed "K. K." and was forwarded from Benton Harbor. The envelope in

which it was forwarded carried the letterhead of the "Twin City Renovating Co., P. O. Box 401, Benton Harbor, Mich." Across the letterhead was scribbled the words "out of business." The Postoffice Department will attempt to trace the sender.

Hoffman has also received an abusive letter from a man signing himself "John Anderson, Aurora, Ill." The Representative was not inclined to take the threats seriously, asserting that he had received numerous abusive letters since he denounced the Townsend Plan. He could see no connection between this letter and the Black Legion.

Most of the contents of the letter mailed from Benton Harbor were unprintable, and the same applied to the letter from Illinois. The Benton Harbor letter spoke of a recent meeting at which Hoffman had been "condemned as a traitor and not fit to represent a dog house."

New evidence that the Black Legion is no new organization in Michigan was indicated by a statement from Rep. George A. Dondero, of Royal Oak, who represents the Seventeenth District. Dondero said that in 1932 and again in the 1934 elections it had been intimated that he could win easily if he would join the "Bullet Club." He said the invitations were always extended in a "kidding way," and that he did not think much about them until the disclosures following the Poole murder.

As far as could be learned today, no other Michigan Congressman has been threatened or asked to join the legion.

185  
Do not write through the  
sheriff of Kelsap Co. he is too  
closely allied.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

APR 25 PM 1936

FILE SECTION

FILED

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

May 28, 1936.

HAM:LCB

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWARDS

This is to advise that there were received today in the Identification Division, fingerprint cards from the Michigan State Police, Jackson, Michigan, on the following individuals:

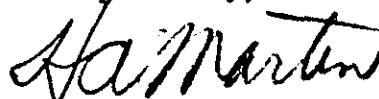
Clarence Ernest, their #J-5326  
Glen Ernest, (no number given)  
Allen Bason, their #J-5327  
Ray C. Ernest, their #J-5328

On the reverse side of the fingerprint card on Ray C. Ernest, there is the following notation:

"This man is Brigadier General of  
Black Legion"

The date of the arrest of these individuals is indicated as May 26, 1936, and the charge is given as kidnaping and felonious assault. The criminal specialty on all is noted as "Black Legion". All of the above-mentioned fingerprint cards were searched through the files of this Bureau without effecting an identification.

Respectfully,

  
H. A. Martin.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JUN 2 1936

  
FBI LABORATORY  
COLUMBIA

61-7398-42

JUN 2 1936

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Rosen  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Forde  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Johnson  
Mr. Keay  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schieber  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

115

22  
EPE:VTL  
61-7398-43

June 5, 1936.

RECORDED

Mr. George E. Hopkins,  
Clear Creek, West Virginia.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 27, 1936, together with enclosed newspaper clipping, furnishing information relative to one Ernst, who in 1922 was in Alliance, Ohio allegedly as an organizer for the Ku-Klux Klan. It is noted that you furnished this information as an assistance to this Bureau in connection with its investigation of the activities of the Black Legion.

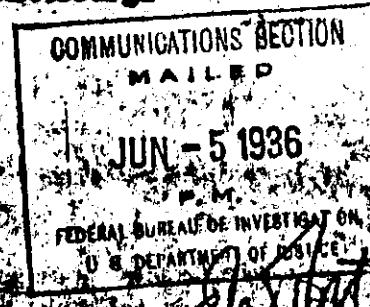
For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. Inasmuch as the activities of the Black Legion do not appear to be in violation of any such Federal law, no action is being taken by this Bureau relative thereto.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in furnishing this matter for my attention, as well as your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

cc-Pittsburgh



Cedar Creek

May 27 - 36, 1936, W.D.A. MS

Rec. 6/5/36

cc: Pittsburgh,  
Washington, D.C. E.F.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover.

Dear Sir

In reading the enclosed article from the Beckley newspaper my mind reverted back I think 1922. I was in Alliance Ohio and met a man by the name of ~~Albert~~ Ernest. Instead of Ernest, he was organizer for the Ku Klux Klan, and the district had a large membership. He was sent to jail for confiscating funds for flowers for dead members and charging some to the organization. He was formerly from Coopers, Ind. In sending this information it appealed to me there might be more than a coincidence in the name and occupation. If this is any use you use it with my compliments to one part of our Government Institution who deserves plenty of credit for ~~past~~ service rendered.

RECORDED

Very <sup>to</sup> ~~friendly~~ yours 61-7398-43  
INDEXED INVESTIGATION

MAY 29 1936

Frank W. St. 0  
Member of  
Alliance Ohio ADP

JUN 8 1936

George E. Hopkins

all good  
information on  
hooded legion  
and its  
activities

HERALD, BECKLEY, W.

## Hooded Legion Found To Have Unit of Women

(Continued From Page One)

Father Charles E. Coughlin's original Shrine of the Little Flower on March 17, was on the list of unexplained fires; his investigators are checking for a possible connection with Black Legion terrorism.

Many Angles To Probe

"That is just one of a number of angles of our investigation," McCrea said. "Royal Oak (the site of the Shrine) is out of our jurisdiction, but if we uncover any new evidence it will be turned over to authorities there."

There were rumors in Royal Oak that investigation of the explosion of a black powder bomb in the basement of Father Coughlin's home several years ago also would be reopened.

Father Coughlin said he had heard nothing of renewed investigation of the Shrine fire or the bombing and declined to discuss any possible connection between them and Black Legion activities.

Effinger, who appealed to the prosecutor in Adrian, Mich., last summer for the release of three men arrested with weapons and black robes bearing the Black Legion skull and cross bone insignia, said he knew nothing about the killing in Detroit or elsewhere by the Black Legion, and declared, "Organization deplores anything of that nature."

The questioning of Lupp followed discovery in Ernest's home of a letter signed "Art Lupp, B. G." in which Ernest was asked "how are you getting along with your

## HOODED LEGION FOUND TO HAVE UNIT OF WOMEN

6-7-38-43  
Recruiting Agent Discloses Existence Of Auxiliary Under Questioning

Membership Of Six Millions Claimed

Prison Guard Says Group Plans Overthrow Of Government

DETROIT, Mich., April 10.—The secret auxiliary of the hooded legion, a vigilante organization charged by investigators with seeking political power through terrorism, was disclosed today. Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea announced, by A. L. Lupp, a recruiting officer for the black-robed order.

McCrea said he was seeking to learn the size of the auxiliary and whether members are required to vote as instructed by their superiors as is the case, he said with the Black Legion.

V. F. Effinger, whom McCrea has sought for questioning, asserted in Lima, O., today that the Black Legion has more than 6,000,000 members, and that "it will go right ahead promoting the best interests of America and American citizens, despite the unfortunate affair in Detroit."

Investigations here received without immediate comment a report from Columbus, O., that a witness before a legislative committee had testified that he was a member of the Black Legion and that a great many of its members had been placed as foremen on works (FERA) in Lima, O.

The witness, George Armstrong, of Lima, was quoted as saying "members of the Black Legion go next to the jobs on relief work."

Organization Ambitions

Effinger, a Black Legion admirer, in 1937 was dropped in Jackson, today, by a Michigan penitentiary guard after his arraignment on a charge of kidnapping and felonious assault in the flogging of a relief worker. State Police Captain William Hansen said:

"Between you and me," Hansen quoted Ray Ernest, the accused guard, as saying to Trooper Howard Sells: "we are going to over-

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Beauchamp  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Forworth  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

TELETYPE

116  
7 QSR (9)  
FBI INDIANAPOLIS 5-28-36 11-38 AM CST FC

DIRECTOR

PHONE. ~~INDIANAPOLIS~~ TIMES ISSUE MAY TWENTYEIGHTH CARRIES STORY  
THAT ~~NOTES~~ PURPORTING TO BE FROM ~~BLACK LEGION~~ WERE FOUND LAST NIGHT  
IN INDIANAPOLIS AND WERE BEING INVESTIGATED BY US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
AGENTS AT THE REQUEST OF DETROIT AUTHORITIES. STORY QUOTES DUNCAN ~~████████~~  
~~████~~ MACCREA, WAYNE COUNTY MICHIGAN PROSECUTOR, AS SAYING IN PART QUOTE  
THE INDIANAPOLIS NOTES SOUND AUTHENTIC TO ME, AND I AM ASKING  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AGENTS ASSIGNED TO ME BY ATTORNEY GENERAL HOMER  
CUMMINGS, FOR THIS INVESTIGATION, TO IMMEDIATELY PROBE THE INDIANA-  
POLIS ANGLE UNQUOTE. THIS OFFICE HAS NOT INVESTIGATED AND IS NOT IN-  
VESTIGATING ~~████~~ ANY ANGLE THIS MATTER, AND NO REQUEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED  
TO MAKE ANY INVESTIGATION

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DOWD

END

JUN 4 1936

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC PCB

61-7398-44

MAY 29 1936	
FBI - WASH. D. C.	
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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

Federal Bureau of Investigation

H. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

May 25, 1936.

Time - 10:25 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE [REDACTED] *File Ex.*

Re: "Black Legion" matter. *JKV*

I telephoned SAC Reinecke at the Detroit Office with reference to the publicity which has come out about the Federal authorities offering every cooperation in connection with the above matter in that vicinity. Mr. Reinecke said that this is absolutely all wrong; that he has not offered any cooperation to anyone in this situation. He said that he has been called by the papers on two or three occasions wanting to know if the Bureau was in on the case, to which he replied that since there are no facts to date indicating a Federal violation within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau, no investigation by the Bureau is being conducted. However, he said that the newspapers may have just put that in as a result of the identification by the Identification Division of the Bureau of the fingerprints of the murdered man. Mr. Reinecke said that the papers are trying to bring the Bureau into the investigation of this matter out there for news value, and, realizing this, he has very carefully handled every inquiry in order to make sure there would be no basis in fact or from innuendo which would indicate the Bureau is participating in the investigation. As a matter of fact, Mr. Reinecke said that the local authorities have not requested the assistance of the Detroit Office in this matter, and have not contacted that office either officially or unofficially about the case.

Mr. Reinecke said that so far as he can see at this time, there is not even a scintilla of evidence developed to date indicating a Federal violation of any kind. The victim of the murder, Poole, was found on the outskirts of the city, and the murderers were arrested in the city itself, thus eliminating the unlawful flight possibility. He said that from the newspapers, he understands a man died in Jackson, Michigan, some time ago and his wife is now claiming that shortly before his death, he was taken out and beaten by an organization such as the Black Legion, and that he died as a result of this beating. The death certificate shows his death to be from another cause. There is no Federal angle for consideration in this situation either. The victim was beaten on the outskirts of the [REDACTED] and the beaters apparently are still in the city itself. However, in the Jackson angle, Mr. Reinecke said the papers indicate a couple of prison guards were members of the organization, and that one of them has been suspended by reason of his membership.

INDEXED

61-7388-45

Mr. Reinecke said that Poole, the instant victim, was found shot on the outskirts of Dearborn, Michigan. Through the identification of his

MAY 26 1936

JUN 8 1936

Memo for the Director

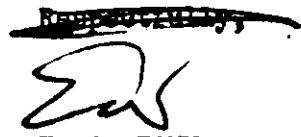
-2-

5/25/36

fingerprints by the Identification Division of the Bureau, it was found that he was originally from down in Kentucky. A check among his friends and acquaintances by the police out there resulted in several arrests, and the police obtained confessions from five or six who stated that they were members of this Black Legion. These people admitted, according to the papers, that they killed Poole for the reason that they had received a complaint at one of their meetings that Poole was mistreating his wife. This was the starting point of uncovering this Black Legion, a group of men who organized to promote Protestantism and Anti-Communism, etc. There were found among the personal effects of the men arrested some black robes which had been used by them. While there are claims running around to the effect that the organization is national in scope and has officers like the Army, Mr. Reinecke has no idea and has no way of knowing the extent or number of members of this organization.

Mr. Reinecke said that the people who are in custody and who have admitted killing Poole are people who have migrated into Michigan from Tennessee and Kentucky — George W. Barrett type. He said that they are just a bunch of low-type hillbillies who have come out of the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee and have obtained employment in the industrial enterprises in the vicinity of Dearborn, and it is easy to see how they would kill with impunity just on the violation of a woman.

Mr. Reinecke is doing absolutely nothing on this matter and will not do anything unless specifically advised by the Bureau.

  
E. A. TAMM.

217  
FBI TD  
AL-7888 - 46

June 15, 1936

RECORDED

Reverend Columban F. Kelly, O. F. M.,  
Mt. Alverno Retreat,  
Warwick, New York.

Dear Father Kelly:

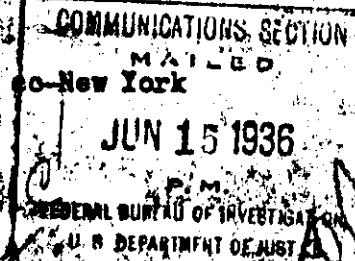
I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 29, 1936, furnishing an expression of your opinion relative to this Bureau's present attitude in respect to the matter of investigating the activities of the Black Legion.

For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by legislative enactment to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in permitting me to apprise myself of your views in this matter, as well as your favorable comments relative to the work of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



ETC

2182  
Franciscan Monastery  
PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

Mt. Alverno Retreat

May 29 ' 36

Warwick, New York.

Dear Dr. Hoover:

When I returned from Paterson last Wednesday evening I got in my mail a copy of your address before the Boys' Clubs of America in Philadelphia on May 20th. It is very good and I have glad to have it. I also heard deliver that address over the radio.

I believe that your Bureau is taking the right stand in the matter of investigating the unholy activities of the Black Legion. Those who are howling for the intervention of the F. B. I. should know that you cannot interfere until there is evidence that Federal laws have been violated. No doubt such laws have been violated but when it is clear that such is the case I am confident that you will act. When the Bureau is sure of its ground nothing can or will stop you.

Since ~~Fr. Kelly~~ Fr. Kelly.

61-7398-46

JUN 23 1936 X RECORDED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reply 6/13/36 INDEXED

JUN 23 1936

€ 7 E POLSON JOSEPH TWO JUSTICE

MISSOURI

[REDACTED] of the KKK, called at Atlanta  
Office offering his organization's assistance in the  
inves.of the Black Legion. Was informed Bu did not have  
the ~~Black~~ Legion under investigation.

emk

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

501 Healey Building  
Atlanta, Georgia

REC: rd  
62-0

Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. Rosenblum .....  
Chief Clerk .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Edwards .....  
Mr. Egan .....  
Mr. Foxworth .....  
Mr. Harbo .....  
Mr. Joseph .....  
Mr. Keith .....  
Mr. Lester .....  
Mr. Quinn .....  
Mr. Schieber .....  
Mr. Tamm .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Miss Gandy .....

May 29, 1936

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

OU  
Dear Sir:

35  
7 Dr. [REDACTED] of the Ku Klux Klan, who resides at Atlanta, Georgia, called at this office about Noon today, after having been referred to this office by United States Attorney Lawrence S. Camp.

[REDACTED] when he arrived at the office, indicated he might have some information which would be of value to the Government in the investigation of the Black Legion. I informed [REDACTED] in keeping with instructions previously received from Mr. Tamm of the Bureau, that this Bureau did not have under investigation the Black Legion and was receiving no information regarding the activities of that organization. I informed him that in the event he had any information which he desired to furnish to interested officials, it would be proper for him to direct his information to the Detroit, Michigan local authorities.

[REDACTED] stated that his information was in the nature of theories developed as the result of his knowledge of secret organizations and organizers of such associations. He stated he had called at the office to advise that the Ku Klux Klan is ready and willing to aid the Government to its fullest extent in any investigation which may be conducted. He stated this Bureau should feel perfectly free to examine the books of his organization or interview any of the officials of that organization at any time.

[REDACTED] He advised that inasmuch as the Federal Government itself was not interested in the Black Legion, he [REDACTED] would carry the matter no further. [REDACTED] requested that no publicity [REDACTED] ever be given his visit at this office and his offer of cooperation.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JUN 3 1936

61-7398-47

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 1 1936

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Tamm  
JWCG

Very truly yours,  
E. E. CONROY  
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FROM: DIVISION #1 & DIVISION #2

1936.

TO:

Director \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nathan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Edwards \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 Files Section \_\_\_\_\_  
 Personnel Files \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief Clerk's Office \_\_\_\_\_  
 Identification Division \_\_\_\_\_  
 Technical Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Division Three \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISORS

Mr. Chambers \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Emrich \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Fletcher \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hood \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Johnson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Lindquist \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. McIntire \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Smith \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Soucy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Spear \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Vincent \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Weeks \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Nathan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Bauchman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief Clerk \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Edwards \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Herbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Keith \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Lester \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Schilder \_\_\_\_\_  
 Call me regarding this \_\_\_\_\_  
 Correct \_\_\_\_\_  
 Re-write \_\_\_\_\_  
 Re-date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Note and Return \_\_\_\_\_  
 Search, serialize and route \_\_\_\_\_

Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mrs. Fisher \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gallavan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Conlon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
 Typists \_\_\_\_\_  
 M \_\_\_\_\_

E. A. TAMM - 5742.

209

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
506 Fletcher Trust Building  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
May 29, 1936

JAD:mla

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto you will find a news item appearing in the Chicago Herald and Examiner, issue of May 28, 1936, over a South Bend, Indiana, date line of May 27, 1936 having to do with the Black Legion and its activities in Starke County, Michigan. You will note therein that in the opening lines of the item it states that information pertaining to the spread of the organization in Northern Indiana was laid before a representative of the Department of Justice here (South Bend) on May 27, 1936.

Special Agent J. E. <sup>RECORDED & INDEXED</sup> Jones, <sup>INVESTIGATION</sup> stationed at South Bend, Indiana, as a resident agent working under this office, informs me concerning the matter as follows.

61-7398-48

JUN 9 1936

JUN 1 1936 A.M.

On the evening of May 27, 1936, William Diedrich, Chief of Detectives of the South Bend Police Department telephoned Agent Jones at the latter's residence and stated that a man was in his office and wanted to speak to a Bureau Agent relative to the "Black Legion" activities in this section. The chief requested that Agent Jones go to the Police Station and talk with the above individual. Agent Jones diplomatically declined the invitation and advised Chief Diedrich that Agent had no authority to check into the matter or to talk to anyone concerning the same; that such an investigation must be first ordered by headquarters; that it was thought advisable not even to go to the police station and discuss the matter because of the dangers of false newspaper publicity. Accordingly, Agent Jones did not go to the police station and did not discuss the matter with anyone.

On the morning of May 28, 1936 while at the Police Department on other matters, Chief Diedrich called Agent Jones' attention to an article in the Chicago Herald and Examiner (Indiana Section) dated May 28, 1936, which article was purportedly written at South Bend, Indiana and was to the effect that a "Starke County man had discussed the Black Legion activities with a Department of Justice representative at South Bend." This information is false in every respect. Chief Diedrich explained that newspaper reporters were present after he, the Chief, discussed instant matter with the "Starke County man";

that he, Chief Diedrich, said nothing to them about telephoning Agent Jones and specifically requested the reporters not to even mention the fact that a Starke County Man had called at the Police Department to give information on Black Legion activities; that in spite of his, the Chief's, request, the attached article appeared in the Chicago paper. -

Agent Jones is aware of none of the information offered by the Starke County individual and knows nothing of instant matter except that set out above and that which appeared in the attached newspaper clipping. Agent Jones examined both South Bend newspapers on May 28, 1936 for similar articles but apparently none appeared therein.

Very truly yours,



JOHN A. DOWD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

1 Enclosure

140

CHICAGO HERALD AND EXAMINER  
INDIANA Section  
May 28,  
1936

**HAMMOND BLACK**

**LEGION ACTS TO**

**DISBAND**

61-7398-48

141

# Fort Wayne Hooded Riders Kidnap Township Officials; Ordeal Described to Sheriff

## *Indiana's Robed Riders—*

### FEARFUL 'LEGION' RECRUIT TALKS

### *Starke County Member's Story Laid Before G-Man*

SOUTH BEND, May 27.—Information pertaining to the spread in northern Indiana of the notorious Black Legion, whose criminal activities in Michigan resulted in a nationwide investigation, was laid before a representative of the Department of Justice here today.

The information was volunteered to Assistant Chief of Police William Diedrich by a business man of Starke County.

The informant was said to be a member of the black legion who did not realize its criminal propensities and fears now to renounce his membership.

An amazingly large membership in the legion in northern counties of the state is said to exist.

Alexander Campbell, assistant United States district attorney, stationed here, said this afternoon that nothing pertaining to the Black Legion's activities had been brought to his attention. Prose-

cutor George L. Rulison of St. Joseph County and his Mishawaka deputy, Paul S. Bryant, made similar statements.

However, it was reported that a branch of the United Brethren of America, said to be connected with the legion, is active in Mishawaka, where its members meet secretly in private homes. The United Brethren of America is not the official title of the Black Legion but the latter organization uses that title in some of its literature.

Chief of Police James L. Guy of Mishawaka said that the Mishawaka organization is apparently peaceful. It was reported active politically about two years ago.

One of the strange features of the Black Legion organization in Indiana, Diedrich was told, is that it is now, at least, not requiring payment of dues from its recruits. It is believed this has induced many men, unaware of the organization's true purpose of hate, to join.

Cult's Armed 'Jury' Sits  
on Crescent Throne;  
Threatens Two  
With Death

HAMMOND, May 27.—Approximately 250 members of the Black Legion in Hammond were scheduled to meet at midnight, it was learned, to decide whether the unit should be disbanded in the face of developments in Detroit.

It was learned authoritatively that the Hammond branch has been in existence since last September. The local clan met for a while in a downtown clubroom and later in an office building.

FORT WAYNE. May 27.—Kidnapping of a former township official and his chief deputy were revealed tonight by Sheriff George W. Gillie as authorities pushed their investigation into the activities of the Mystic Order of Black Snakes, hooded cult, which the sheriff believes is an agency of the Black Legion.

The sheriff did not reveal the names of the cult victims, adding that he had no evidence tangible enough on which to issue warrants for arrest of the abductors.

The two officials, Gillie said, were strolling along Calhoun st. when four armed men ordered

Their hands tied behind their backs and blindfolded, the two were taken on a long, devious ride, finally being led into a circle of ominous, hooded figures, the sheriff said.

**ADDRESSED BY LEADER.**

According to the story told the sheriff by the two officials, twelve hooded men with pistols sat upon a crescent throne, surrounded by a silent circle of figures clad in black, unrevealing robes.

The hooded leader of the cult, the victims told the sheriff, then addressed them, stating that the cult had obtained information that the officials were contemplating the discharge of two of its members, who were in the township officials' employ.

Should they carry out their plans, the hooded figure warned, the officials would again be kidnapped and beaten with a vicious blacksnake whip—which lay on the ground before them.

The leader added that "worse consequences" might follow. This the two victims interpreted as a threat of death.

**WPA WORKER'S STORY.**

The township officials and his deputy then were taken back to the spot where they had been abducted and released.

A Works Progress Administration worker today also told the sheriff how he had been duped into becoming a member of the cult, but that he had never attended a meeting. He said that coworkers had recently advised him to attend meetings regularly "or suffer the consequences."

—Buy American—

RECORDED  
61-7398-49

June 3, 1936

Mr. [REDACTED]  
972 Marietta Street,  
Zanesville, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 28, 1936, in which you offer your assistance to this Bureau in connection with its investigation into the criminal activities of the "Black Legion".

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the "Black Legion" are in violation of any such Federal law, no action is being taken by this Bureau relative thereto.

Your offer of assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated, but I must advise you that all investigations by this Bureau are conducted only by duly appointed Special Agents thereof. All applicants for this position must be between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five years and must show by their application that they are graduates from accredited law schools, having had two years of practical commercial experience, or graduates from accredited accounting schools, having had two years of practical business experience and capable of testifying on the witness stand as an expert in accounting matters, or investigators having had extensive criminal investigative experience. Inasmuch as you indicate your age to be twenty-three years, it appears that you are not eligible for the position of Special Agent.

JUN - 3 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director

Cincinnati

Edgar Hoover  
FBI  
Washington, D.C.

7

Lebring, Ohio

May 28, 1936

RECORDED

Mr. Hoover &  
INDEXED

61-1378-49

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

I am writing you in  
connection, with a possible  
investigation into the activities  
of the Black Legion of the  
middle West, and am <sup>Ask. cc.</sup> <sup>Cincinnati</sup>  
willing to do anything that  
I can to aid you.

48/36. E38  
I am 25 years old 5 feet  
1 1/2 inches tall and weigh 160 lbs.  
and will do what I can to  
assist you in your fight to  
stamp out crime.

You can write to Mr.  
Ray Barnes, of the Zanesville

Police Department in  
regard to anything you  
might want to know  
about me.  
Waiting Your Reply

nd we  
ight want to  
visit me.  
Waiting Your Reply

I am  
Yours very

Jamestown  
Ohio

107  
WPA:LL  
61-7398-50

RECORDED

June 6, 1936

[REDACTED]  
926 West Ninth Street  
San Pedro, California

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 22, 1936, furnishing information relative to the activities of Dr. Martin Luther Thomas, who you claim to be a religious radio activist, and requesting that an investigation be conducted by this Bureau in connection with Dr. Thomas.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is limited to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the above-named individual are in violation of any such Federal law, there can be no action which can be taken by this Bureau in this connection.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention, as well as your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

600 - Los Angeles, - 3 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Miss Gandy

San Pedro California

May 26 '36.

Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Department of Justice

Washington D. C.

Sirs.-

I am shocked but not surprised  
the uncovering of a <sup>murdering</sup> Black Leg  
in Michigan.

If the Federal Government does not take  
a hand to stamp out such vermin, I fear  
we in California will see a reign of terror  
too in the not distant future. 61-7398-51

RECORDED & INDEXED FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
We have here in ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> ~~people~~ <sup>people</sup> a Dr. Martin Luther Thomas, a religious radio ~~radio~~ <sup>radio</sup> racketeer  
who I believe could bear ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~resemblance~~ <sup>resemblance</sup> to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Black~~ <sup>Black</sup> ~~Shirt~~ <sup>Shirt</sup> ~~group~~ <sup>group</sup>.

He arrived ~~sight~~ twelve years ago from  
Chicago I believe, in San Pedro to be a  
minister of the First Presbyterian Church.  
His activities from the very beginning he  
were anti-social & wholly dogmatic and  
in the spirit of this Black shirt group.

He had special K.K.K. services in his  
Church in full regalia and on account  
of these and other activities was forced  
to resign from the Presbyterian Ministry by  
demand of the district council.

For the last 3 years he has been broad-  
casting twice a day on coast wide net work  
(Kern Station I believe) under the slogan

Under the cloak of attacking Communism he has apparently accumulated much prestige among powerful groups, as he now lives in a mansion in Pasadena with the millionaire and rides around in high priced cars.

This person was my neighbor for 6 years, and when I write this, I do this not in a spirit of revenge or of personal grudges, but as a social obligation as I am residing at this address for 14 years.

I have positive proof that this racketeer would not hesitate to commit violence or to urge some one else to do it. I saw him going into the yard of a neighbor with a shotgun in hand, demanding her cat. The sanctity of the home would not stop him to gain his end whatever it might be.

He even demanded of my minor son to shoot cats around his home (he could do it in the heart of the city, and if the police do anything to send them to Dr Martin Luther,

In 1930 with the coming in office of the notorious Klan Administration of

Mayor John C. Porter in Los Angeles he became the mayors super-snooper. He also was appointed by the Mayor as chairman of a committee to investigate the Bureau of Power & Light, the greatest municipal owned institution of its kind in America, presumably for the purpose

expert, why, his neighbor could not help observe, that for instance, his garage door was hanging on one hinge for years.

Recently he was appointed by our Klan Governor as chaplain to the [redacted] State Militia with the rank as Major.

By reading between the lines you can readily where he belongs now.

(It is with extreme gratitude that I view the activities of our Department of Justice to stamp out gangsterism & racketeering, with this Radio racketeer spouting twice a day his hatred against our administration under the cloak of fighting Communism, I hope you will look into the activities of this person, I believe this mans unholy influence will be used at some later date for some violent purpose by those who control & finance him.

Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty

Sincerely,

200  
R  
FBI, LI  
61-7398-51

7-24-36

JUN 9 1936

Mr.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 29, 1936, furnishing information relative to your former employment by the Burns Detective Agency at Tulsa, Oklahoma, which position you state you now hold. I appreciate the information and your refusal to join a secret society which you believe is similar to the "Black Legion". It is noted you are desirous of assisting this Bureau in its investigation relative to that organization.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of Federal laws and collecting evidence in cases arising within the United States in or by some party in interest. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of either the "Black Legion" or the organization to which you refer are in violation of any such Federal law, no action can be taken by this Bureau relative thereto.

I appreciate, however, your interest and courtesy in furnishing this information to me.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION	
MAIL C	
JUN 10 1936	
P. M.	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
DO.	OKLAHOMA CITY

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Chief Clerk  
[redacted]  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Coffield  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Tracy  
[redacted]

[redacted] Oklahoma.  
May 21, 1936

Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I do not know whether or not the Federal Bureau of Investigation will interest itself in the purported investigation of the secret society, known as the "Black Legion", but the fact that I am an applicant for a position as Special Agent makes me vitally interested in the continued success of your organization, and I am writing now to give you what little information I have, about what I believe, might concern this so called secret society.

In order that I might acquire some experience as an investigator I applied for a position to Mr. F. N. Burns of the Burns Detective Agency here in Tulsa. I worked for him several Saturdays before he approached me on the subject of entering a secret society, which had for its purpose (according to Mr. Burns) things similar to the secret society already mentioned. Hoping that I might learn something of this society I kept an appointment, made for me, by Mr. Burns with two men in the Bliss Hotel. I spent an hour with them but obtained very little information. They wanted me to promote this society in Tulsa, but refused to tell me the name of it, or the names of its officers. I refused to join, and shortly after this, Mr. Burns asked me to return my identification card.

This is not being written with the intention to promote my own interest with your Bureau, neither is it because Mr. Burns asked for the return of my card. I would have written before this except for the fact that I did not think the Federal Bureau of Investigation would have jurisdiction, however it looks now as though it will have.

I sincerely hope that if the Federal Bureau of Investigation is interested in this investigation that I can be of some small help.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-51

Sincerely and Respectfully yours,

Ack

cc - Okla City  
6/9/36. E3E

JUN 15 1936

[REDACTED] Tulsa, advises that F.N.Burns of the Burns Detective Agency in Tulsa, for whom he worked, approached him on subject of entering secret society which had for its purposes things similar to Black Legion.

This man is the applicant who sent telegram to airport in Tulsa in Jan. of this year for Director requesting 10 minute interview. He has failed twice to pass Agents' examination. Recommendation unfavorable.

emk

*Jolson  
Samuel*



ACTIVE IN BLACK LEGION. Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Lupp, at their summer cottage in Algonac, Mich., yesterday told of their affiliation with the Black Legion. He was chief recruiting officer in Michigan. She held rank of "colonel" in women's auxiliary.

Supplemental (NON-EX COMMUNICATION 194  
KEEP IN SLOPE ATTACHED

Note pictures inclosed - don't be  
misled by their major forces -  
they can organize an organization  
of that sort - they are just as bad as any  
woman as any you had to deal with -

Some.

JUN 3

1936 RECORDED

&  
INDEXED

61-7398-52	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	1936
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE	

See, - From a National stand point  
this is Federal job - ~~in your case~~  
secure deputies by the millions  
by giving badges and arranging  
an auxiliary Legion - the  
Country divided into Federal  
Zones Something like other  
departments - of this kind  
of Subversive - like - and Constitution  
and government overthrow organization  
& over please

195  
by any kind of people or to its  
no matter what origin  
or degree isn't ferreted out  
and a general federal supervision  
style system maintained, see  
that no organization of that  
sort are formed - no one can  
prophecy what vicious  
national conditions federal  
or national system might <sup>or be</sup> dwell  
both in relation domestic  
and even [one don't like to  
say] abroad:

straight citizen.

It's your job to get this  
Matter introduced to the right  
team-work field of organization  
and make it mighty when ever.

U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
FBI  
1936



196

J. Edgar Hoover  
Dept. of Justice  
Washington, D. C. O.

Postage  
Paid

# 77 Founder of Black Legion Is Just Plain 'Doctor Billy' to Bellaire Home Folks

Special to The News

BELLAIRE, O.—"General" Billy Shepard is a nervous, active little man with a jet black pompadour and squinting eyes.

To the 8,000 residents of this Ohio river town he is known as "Doctor Billy," and for 15 years he has been health commissioner of Bellaire at a salary of \$25 a month.

They know "Doctor Billy" as a joiner, a jovial drug store orator and a man who likes to be a bit mysterious at times, but, withal, a harmless fellow who can absorb a lot of kidding.

But William Shepard, commander-in-chief of the Black Legion in America, is a title which draws little more than mock solemnity or open guffaws from the sophisticated members of the Round Table Luncheon club, which meets regularly in the rear of Dankworth's drug store.

## Admits Founding Legion

Upon such a man are the eyes of the nation and many parts of the world centered today, for "Doc" Shepard has become an international figure as the founder and leader of the Black Legion.

He admits readily enough that he conceived the idea of the Black Legion when he was thrown out of the Ku Klux Klan 11 years ago because he formed his own "Black Guard" by coloring the white hoods of his followers with lamp black.

## Klan Was Jealous

"Grand Dragon James A. Colescott was jealous of the Black Guards' popularity," is the way Doctor Billy puts it. Colescott charged Shepard was trying to form a separate organization within the Klan.



DR. WILLIAM SHEPARD

McM:  
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Party

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61-7398-52  
135



ACTIVE IN BLACK LEGION. Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Lupp are at their summer cottage in Algonac, Mich., yesterday told of their affiliation with the Black Legion. He was chief recruiting officer in Michigan. She held rank of "colonel" in women's auxiliary.

RECORDED

TYPE: LL  
61-7398-59

JUN 15 1936

Mr. Edward Phillips,  
2077 Sierra Way,  
San Bernardino, California.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 27, 1936, furnishing an expression of your observations as to the purposes and activities of the "Black Clan" in this country and requesting that this Bureau take appropriate steps to expose and prosecute the leaders of this organization.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws and collecting evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. Inasmuch as the activities of the organization to which you refer do not appear relevant to any such Federal violation, I regret that this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in referring this matter to my attention, as well as your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
JUN 9 1936  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
- Los Angeles

# California Citrus Pulp Company

Office and Factory  
COLEBON, CALIFORNIA

Manufacturers of  
CITRUS BY-PRODUCTS OF  
Oranges ■ Grapefruit ■ Lemons



May 27th 1936

*W.H.P. (5)*  
Hon. Edgar Hoover,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

*Dear* Hon. Sir;

With regret we read of the activities of the "BLACK CLAN" in Michigan and other States and localities. Their Leader claims 6,000,000 Members, all determined to overthrow the constituted authority of this Country. It is a disgrace to our government and shows that we are lax in our dealings with persons or organizations which are operated for personal gain and profit, detrimental to the welfare of our Country.

*Dear* Hon. Sir;

Your G-Men have shown the Country the way. They have shown the good people that they can have FAITH in you and your organization.

You will be doing your Country and its Citizens a great deed by smashing this "BLACK CLAN" wide open and exposing their activities prosecuting the guilty and the leaders and dis-arming these vicious men, whose principal aim and purpose is to turn our Country into an armed fighting camp, pinning various factions and religious groups against each other for no reason whatsoever. The murderous BLACK CLAN should be exposed and action should be the word.

*Dear* Hon. Edgar Hoover and your G-MEN.) I beg you to move forward into this situation and show these outlaws of our Country that THIS IS A FREE COUNTRY run by constituted authorities under the Flag of Justice to All. Any and all that oppose our wonderful form our government should be exiled or deported or placed in Jails or marked in such manner so that the Public may know with whom they are dealing. Anyone would stay clear of a rattle-snake because they can see that snake and we believe that your wonderful organization is the only organization that can run these BLACK CLAN rattle snakes out into the open where self respecting citizens may meet the situation as they see it.

RECORDED & INDEXED  
PRAISE FOR THE G-MEN  
AND THEIR LEADER.

*Edward Phillipson*  
Edward Phillipson  
2077 Sierra Way  
San Bernardino, Calif.

6T-7398-53  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 1 1936 P.M.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1936 16

189  
CORRINT

EEK:VTL

61-7398-54

June 8, 1936.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sirs:

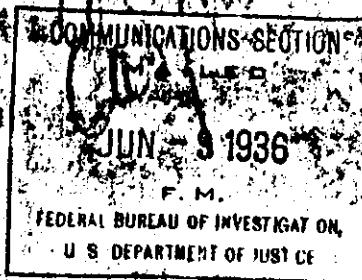
I am transmitting herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous communication, postmarked at Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 30, 1936, which furnishes information relative to the activities of one Crossens L. Smith, 251 Union Street, S. E., Grand Rapids, Michigan, who is allegedly connected with the radical movement and communistic party in that city.

This is being furnished you merely for your information.

Very truly yours,

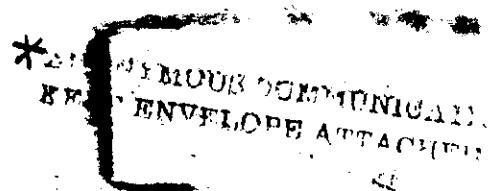
John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure #1134231



19  
13  
Grand R. Is Mich.  
May 25 1936

Dept. Of Justice  
Washington D.C.



Gentlemen:-

Have just heard that your department is about to investigate the Black Legion in Michigan.

For your information I wish to propose one whom I consider an ideal type for this sort of an organization.

He is a member of the American Legion and the Elks ; and as you no doubt know , the latter have established a fund of one million dollars to keep abreast of the radical movement in this country. He is also a member of the Communist party here . He used to be a high pressure salesman and is now conducting a one man dental and medical service business. He makes but little money but always can dig up plenty to buy liquor for the purposes finding out things about people which appear unimportant. He was one of a group of American Legionnaires that kidnapped and beat up a number of the comrades of Mr. Stalin , in this city on Aug. 1 st. 1931. He put the rope around the neck of a one armed chap and flogged the posteriors of another whom they had tied astraddle of a barrel. He is well read and a good stalker. He has been all over and is bi-sexual.

his name and address is

Crescenz E. Smith  
251 Union St. S.E.  
Grand Rapids

Letter -

Detroit 6/8/36

m/s

P.S.

Would like to add that the Stalin's boys and girls do not know that their Comrade Smith was a member of the flogging bee. I have just seen some pictures of the affair, taken by one of them the legionnaires showing his features quite plainly along with most of the others. These pictures are now in the possession of a young W.P.A. photog her who is trying to sell them both to Smith and anyone else.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JUN 10 1936

61-7398-5

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 1 1936	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TWO	



19 |  
AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON D.C.

183  
RFE VTL  
61-7398-55

June 3, 1936.

RECORDED

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Angus Hotel,  
Corner Denman and Howe Streets,  
Vancouver, British Columbia,  
Canada.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 26, 1936, together with the newspaper clippings relative to the Black Legion, advising that there is a person in Vancouver who has represented himself as being the head of this organization.

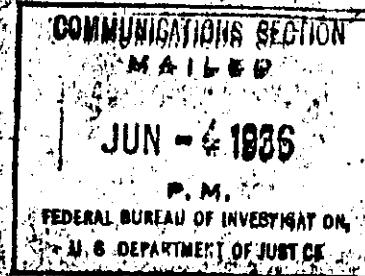
For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. Inasmuch as the activities of the Black Legion do not appear to indicate any such Federal violation, I regret that no action can be taken by this Bureau in the premises.

Your courtesy, however, in furnishing this information for my attention is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Daugherty	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Forsworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schlerf	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....



TELEPHONE  
SEYMOUR 4094 4095

W. G. DAWSON  
OWNER AND MANAGER  
NORMAN G. TH  
OWNER AND MANAGER



## ANGELUS HOTEL

COR DUNSMUIR & HOWE STS  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

5/26/36

Mr. J. E. Hoover  
Federal Def.  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir.

I live at Southwest  
Washington.

There is a man here in  
the vicinity who represented  
himself to me as being the  
head of what I think is  
the organization referred to  
in the enclosed clipping.  
If this information is of  
any assistance I can find  
true out.

RECORDED

INDEXED

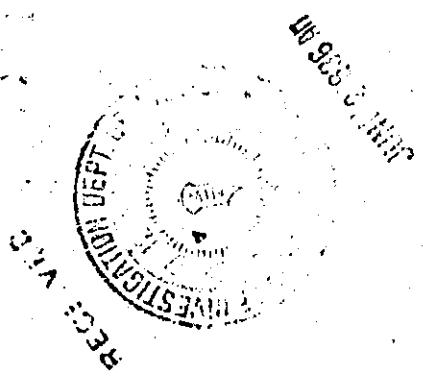
61-7398-55

Do not address me at my  
home address. A letter or communication  
will get me taken up. Rest by  
you. JUN 5 1936 TWO MTR

Check Local

Recd 5/26/36

Do not write through the  
sheriff of Idaho Co. he is too  
closely allied.



FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE

APR 1 3:36 PM 1926

FILES SECTION

RECEIVED

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

## TODAY

(Continued From Page 11)

called "blackstone" "the strongest and most fanatical member of the Ku Klux Klan."

The Legion's idea of "purifying" America is shown in its preliminary oath. Before joining the Legion, the candidate must declare himself "ready to take up arms against Jews, Negroes and Catholics."

A few executions in the regular way, with no help from the Black Legion, should convince that body that America prepares "purification" in the old-fashioned way.

Haile Selassie is on his way to London and British statesmanship wonders what to do about that. Theoretically, he is still emperor, the British not having recognized Mussolini's mopping up in Africa.

One thing is certain, the young English king, who has a sense of humor, will not go to the railroad station to meet Selassie on a piece of new red carpet.

Those sanctions with twenty-one to one against Italy in the League did not save Emperor Selassie, but did cripple Italy's foreign trade, cutting off six-sevenths of it in March, for instance.

The Italians report a wide Anglo-Italian rift in Ethiopia, where the Italian conquerors would "fist a command to march on British colonies."

"No such command is necessary."

MURDER PARADES  
IN WEIRD MASK

ROBE OF BLACK LEGION TORTURE CULT

Members of the Order Have Been Seized as Slayers of a WPA Worker in Detroit.—(Story on Page 1.)

—(Picture From International News Photographic Service.)

U. S. SOCIAL  
SPLIT; AND  
PARTY LO

'Old Guard' Announces  
Separate Group as  
Thomas 'Lefts' Get

CLEVELAND, May 24. Within an hour after the convention of the Socialists voted down the "right-guard" forces from New York, the leftist delegation, Norman Thomas, the "old guard" announced today it would form a new party.

The "old guard" delegation for a convention for a new party, its headquarters with riggers from other states. New York delegation leader, L. M. Mann, announced:

"As far as New York is concerned, there can be no 'old guard' forces. We will form a new party. These delegations, L. M. Mann, leader, said, are from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Mayor Washington, D. C., will be the new party's capital.

"The New York 'old guard' expects support from Socialist Party members in these states, he said.

However, rightist leaders in these states would make no statement.

## PLATFORM TODAY

While the "old guard" was belatedly organizing its announcement, its delegation was belatedly organized, to rush the work to a close. The platform will be turned tomorrow.

Right-wing delegations to the afternoon session did not participate in the turn of the convention.

The differences center on such issues as the left wing's adoption of principles adopted two years ago and the adoption of local "united front" Communists on such points as May Day demands.

But the immediate focus of the convention is the

# Today

U. S. Dollars Emigrate

Russia Kills Quickly

Japan Cannot See It

A Very Black Legion

By Arthur Brisbane

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"Americans are investing huge

sums in the Bahamas, to escape

income tax," says the New York

Times, big type, front page. "The

Americans have been "investing

huge sums" elsewhere, outside of

the United States. "Billions" of

American money have "gone to

Canada, England and other "for-

ign parts." More will go

in all the Bahamas, 4,100 square

miles of British territory.

**THERE IS NO INCOME TAX.**

Think of that for a happy con-

trary.

"Needless to say, the enormous

American money poured in to make

it worth while, the intelligent

British will find a way to tax it;

meanwhile, for Americans that

moved out their money early, the

Bahamas are as "a hiding place

from the wind, and a covert from

the tempest, as streams of water

in a dry place, as the shadow of

a great rock in a weary land."

Moving billions of capital out

of this country to invest in job-

creating enterprises abroad will

not help our depression problem.

The Irish can tell you what hap-

pened to Ireland when British

landlords spent in London all the

rents they collected in Ireland.

Fortunately, for our tax-invent-

ing "geniuses," Americans whose

business is creating jobs for other

Americans, cannot move every-

thing to the Bahamas. Henry Ford

or Alfred P. Sloan Jr. cannot

move their plants there; Myron C.

Taylor cannot move his steel

mills. They must remain, to be

taxed at the sweet will of pro-

fessors that never created a pay-

roll or a job in their lives.

Whether or not that is a wise

system, time will tell.

Interesting executions here and

there: Lithuania, after "secret

court-martial, executes four Lithuanian farmers; sends others to

prison for life. All convicted of

distributing "inflammatory pam-

phlets from Germany.

Germany cut off the head of a

sixty-five-year-old man convicted

of killing twelve boys. Before

death, "examined" by Nazi offi-

cials who thought he might be a

Communist, he admitted many

other murders. He used a secret

poison that doctors could not de-

termine.

Russia sentenced to death a

brutal, "barbarous, petty" tyrant,

governor of a far away island, in

the Arctic Circle, guilty of mur-

der, and starving Bahamians. His

assistant, also sentenced to death,

"smiled haughtily, smoked a cigarette."

Slimentchuk, the Arctic

tyrant, said "I do not deserve to

die, and went in his handkerchief."

5

VOL. CXI, NO. 9

# RADIO

## BLACK LEGION LINKED WITH FIFTY DEATHS

Police Investigate Reports That

at \$35,000 a Night Riders Re-

lating to Michigan Group

(Picture on Page 2)

DETROIT, May 24.—(AP)—The roundup of "night riders" of the hooded Black Legion spread today as officials directed their inquiry to reports a membership totaling 185,000 in Michigan alone may be responsible for some fifty deaths.

In Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said murder warrants would be issued Monday for seven present at the "execution" of Charles A. Poole, young WPA worker. He declared the prosecu-

tion would include as many as may

be identified of some fifty persons

present at a Black Legion meeting

which Poole

was taken to his death.

Ray Ernest, guard at the Southern Michigan prison, was held at Jackson for arraignment Monday on a charge of carrying concealed weapons, after he denied connection with the reported flogging of Paul Every, forty-two, also prison guard, who died April 14 of what physicians pronounced heart disease and diabetes.

**CHECKING SUICIDES**

State Police Capt. Ira H. Marmon, whose troopers have been investigating the secret vigilantes for months, said he was checking a report that fifty Michigan men had been marked for death, and that the Black Legion made the "executions" appear authentic.

Harry Colburn, investigator for the Wayne County prosecutor's office, said he was informing the Black Legion members that the

state grew in three years to 185,000, divided into five brigades of

sixteen regiments each, that each

member carried a pistol, and that

the organization is more dangerous

than people think."

Claims in Black Legion literature seized by state police that it antedates the Ku Klux Klan and that the Klan was an offshoot from it were ridiculed by investigators who said the claims were made to impress prospective members.

**KLAN DENIES CONNECTION**

At New York, Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Klan, indignantly denied any connection with the legion and said the Klan has no affiliates and was firmly aligned on the side of law and order.

Detroit police, who seized eight men after an investigation into the shooting of Poole on a lonely road near Dearborn, released three who said they did not attend the

Move billions of capital out of the country to invest in job-creating enterprises abroad will not help our depression problem. The Irish can tell you what happened to Ireland when British landlords spent in London all the rents they collected in Ireland. Fortunately for our tax-investing "gentiles," Americans in business is creating jobs for other Americans, cannot move everything to the Bahamas. Henry Ford, Alfred P. Sloan Jr., cannot move their plants there; Myron C. Taylor cannot move his steel mills. They must remain to be taxed at the sweet will of professors that never created a payroll or a job in their lives.

Whether or not that is a wise system, time will tell.

Interesting executions here and abroad. Spain, after a secret court-martial, executes four Lithuanian farmers "seeds" others to prison for life. All convicted of distributing "inflammatory pamphlets from Germany."

Germany cut off the head of a sixty-five-year-old man convicted of killing twelve boys. Before death, examined by Nazi officials who thought he might be a Communist, he admitted many other murders. He used a secret poison that doctors could not detect.

Russia sentenced to death a brutal, murderous petty tyrant, governor of a far away island in the Arctic Circle, guilty of murder, and starving Eskimos. His assistant, also sentenced to death, "smiled haughtily, smoking a cigarette." Simechuk, the Arctic tyrant, said "I do not deserve to die, and wept in his handkerchief." The assistant was half-witted. English justice is swift, about three weeks from conviction to hanging. Russian justice is swifter; the two condemned have seventy-two hours for an appeal, then, after three days—the firing squad.

You know what delays we have here, when the murderer can raise money for lawyers.

Returning to the plan to build up American prosperity by buying from foreigners, those foreigners seem not eager to adopt the plan for themselves. England persists in her "Buy British" campaign, and Japan's house of peers approves a bill "to restrict drastically the business of Ford and General Motors in Japan." Japan wants an automobile industry, really Japanese, and you cannot convince the wise Japanese empire that the way to keep Japanese workers busy is to buy the products of American labor.

It takes an American professor to work out that theory.

The "Black Legion" of 100 per cent American patriots bent on establishing a better, brighter America by flogging and murdering, turns out to be an extensive organization. Ten thousand of them, with black and white robes, hoods, skull and cross-bone ornaments, organized in one county. Police are working on some fifty murderers committed by the Black Legion in its efforts to purify America. It is found that murders were ingeniously arranged to look like suicides. Captain Marvin, of the Michigan state police,

10,000 in Michigan who may be responsible for son's death. Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. Poole said murder warrant would be issued Monday for seven present, at the "execution" of Charles A. Poole, young WPA worker. He declared the prosecution would include as many as may be identified of some fifty persons present at the Black Legion meeting.

was taken to his death.

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#### CHECKING SUICIDE

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Harry Colburn, investigator for the Wayne County prosecutor's office, said he was informed the Black Legion's membership in the state grew in three years to 150,000, divided into five brigades of sixteen regiments each, that each member carried a pistol, and that the organization "is more dangerous than people think."

Claims in Black Legion literature seized by state police that it antedates the Ku Klux Klan and that the Klan was an offshoot from it were ridiculed by investigators who said the claims were made to impress prospective members.

#### KLAN DENIES CONNECTION

At New York, Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Klan, indignantly denied any connection with the Legion and said the Klan has no affiliates and was firmly aligned on the side of law and order.

Detroit police, who seized eighteen men after an investigation into the shooting of Poole on a lonely road near Dearborn, released three who said they did not attend the Black Legion meeting that preceded it. Hearing on habeas corpus writs for fifteen others was set for Monday before Circuit Judge Adolph F. Marschner.

Harry Colburn, chief investigator for the Wayne County (Detroit) prosecutor's office, said that each Black Legionnaire carried a pistol. If the state ranks of the units were at full strength, the night riders had an armed force in Michigan alone comparable in numbers to the United States army, he said.

## Claudia Muzio, 44, Opera Star, Dies

ROME, May 24.—(U.S.)—Claudia Muzio, internationally famous opera singer whose voice thrilled audiences in New York, Chicago and other musical centers of the world, died here tonight.

She was forty-four years old. Cardiac paralysis was the cause of death.

## Bugs Says New Veteran Crop Will Bloom in 3 Years

By ARTHUR "BUGS" BAER  
England gets ready for 1939 by preparing to "sweeten" the ocean with depth bombs.

Another World War in three years makes the outlook as bright as an idiot's diploma. England has lined up 800 munition factories to rush orders of calico, colored beads and brass anklets.

She is training 1,500 extra aviators who will go aloft with sprinkling pots and water window boxes on dusty days.

The veterans of future wars have only three years to go in order to catch up to their trade-mark. Copyright, 1939, distributed by Universal Service.

7 Six. 15 INVESTIGATIVE COMMUNIST Party  
7 Note on the self ex. Party - 708 176  
7 This Effinger should be arrested.

7 German race-supremacy dream  
7 best the government of the  
7 United States and put the German  
7 race and German language on top.

7 You are doing good work - but  
7 that's peanuts to that. Enlarge  
7 Your scope - if necessary you will  
7 find millions ready to help in  
7 your work of ferreting out these  
7 underground enemies of the Government  
7 of the U.S. and the institutions of  
7 the United States.

7 RECORDED 61-7398-56  
7 INDEXED JUN 2 1936  
7 They should be and <sup>should</sup> be  
7 ferreted out and their property  
7 or properties confiscated.

P.S. FILE

7 ENCL. 7 JUN 2 1936

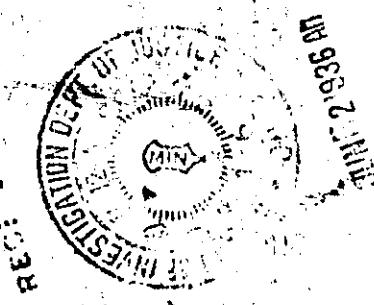
7 Your Bureau and Department  
7 should be absolutely science  
7 and professional - no political or  
7 non partisan worker of party over person

as sister of Both Parties  
1st interest is in the Loyalty  
and maintenance of the liberty  
and institutions of the Nation  
and Land - and the better  
and more disciplined.

Government system the  
better irrespective who  
or what leader is head of  
the Ministry or Cabinet rank  
or position - So more Science  
more permanence -

Something like military  
best government and rule.

Same.



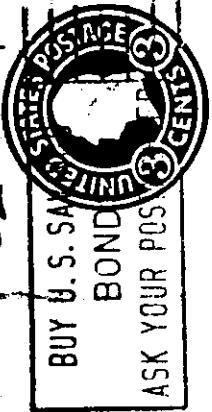
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE

JUN 1 3 59 PM 1936

FILE SECTION

RECEIVED

182



Department of  
Agriculture  
of North Carolina

Attention  
of Budget Officer  
of B.C. & N. W. H. C. I. D. 6  
Mr. Horner  
or at least  
representative  
of the  
Government  
to furnish

113

101  
"KID LEAVE YOU"

I'M CERTAIN IT'S MY COMPLEXION THAT'S  
MADE BOB SO ADORING. LUCKY FOR ME  
I LEARNED HOW TO GUARD AGAINST  
COSMETIC SKIN. LUX TOILET SOAP'S ACTIVE  
LATHER REMOVES COSMETICS, THOROUGHLY

25  
Superior  
King Arthur

it's Soft-Stilled

Mix your drinks with Seagram's Gin and they'll be good to the last sip. "Soft-Stilling" retains the flavor to the last, even when mixed with 16 parts water.

Superior Distilled  
London Dry Gin  
5 QTS. \$1.48  
Ohio Code No. 4128  
1/2 PINT

## GIN BOY GIN-GLES

What water does to fire—  
What sugar does to tea—  
What soft words do to ire—  
What rain does to a tree—  
What sunshine does to flowers—  
What milk does to a Quin—  
Is just the clearest way to tell—  
What "Soft-Stilled" does to gin!

SAY  
Seagram's

to  
dren on  
mates help  
niversary, while  
the sidelines to cheer their  
spring in a baseball game.

DICTION

### Firemen Save Woman From Gas in Home

Miss Carrie Baker, 37, of 1405 Huntington Ave., narrowly escaped death from asphyxiation yesterday in the basement of her home when gas hose became disconnected.

She was found unconscious by a neighbor, who called police. Fire rescue squad No. 1 responded and worked three hours before reviving her. She is recovering in Huron Road hospital.

### Window Cleaners' Union Spurred by Officials

The Window Cleaners' Union today prepared for a revival of activities at a meeting with international union officers.

President Jerry Hogan and Vice President Thomas J. Burke of Chicago, who recently named Dillard G. Bowles as Ohio representative, were to meet with members at 8 tonight in Meat Trades temple, 1000 Walnut Ave.

### Strong in Cleveland

"We are not fighting the people, but we are here to let them know that they are not put in position of authority over them," said Effinger, president of the Black Legion in Cleveland.

"The legion has wide strength in Cleveland. It was strong in Cleveland, and it is stronger than it was because there is no racket here. Bear in mind that the hooded members aren't known by name at all, but by number. He flatly refused to divulge names of Cleveland leaders of the Black Legion."

It was disclosed that Smith, 55, a farmer, lives in Waynesfield, Auglaize county, 20 miles south of Effinger's home.

### Roosevelt Leader Before

President Roosevelt was here today as the leader of organizations and liberal groups in a "liberal united front" during the presidential campaign.

That position was given Major George L. Berry, Labor's Non-Partisan League, at the re-election of President Roosevelt, in addressing the biennial convention of the United Clothing Workers of America in public music hall.

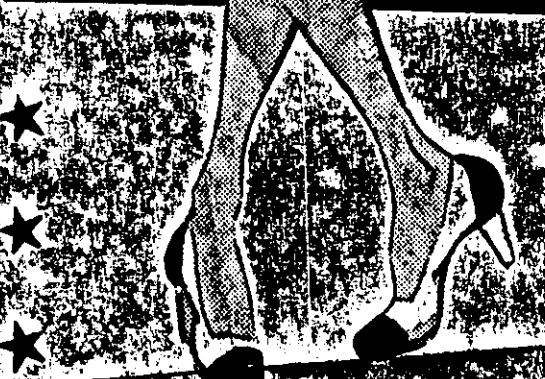
Major Berry, who is also co-ordinator for industrial unionization and head of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, said the league has a bureau of 4,000 speakers in 20 states for Mr. Roosevelt's campaign.

### Fight Reactionary Forces

"We intend to lead the fight against the reactionary forces, influence, and large economic money with which they are measured by Am-

problems! Everything is smart fashions to make your holiday a success! And we'll do everything to make our terms convenient for you.

61-7398-L



**your own terms**

**FUR STORAGE!** Your fur or cloth coat stored and insured for only 2% of your own valuation. Minimum charge \$1.50. Add the cost to your account.

**\$1.50. Add the cost to your account.**

Specialized

Recessional

All Remaining Spring Coats and Suits Have Been Greatly Reduced! Buy Now and Save!

## WHITE SUITS

in single and double-breasted styles with plain or action backs.

**\$8.95**

## WHITE COATS

in free-swinging swaggers, box coats and dressy types. At

1000 \$

## **TUBEROCKS**

attractively styled  
in smart, new, fast-color  
materials.

0 to \$3

## Washable SILKS.

and cottons. Very good-looking "sports" and dressy" styles. Unusual values at \$4.95 and up.

卷之三

## PALM BEACH

Suits. Tailored of genuine Palm Beach cloth. Exclusively styled.

**\$16.95**

A Complete  
Selection

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

General Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

May 28, 1936.

Time - 10:20 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Black Legion.

Mr. Nathan .....
Mr. Tolson .....
Mr. Daugherty .....
Chief Clerk .....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Edwards .....
Mr. Egan .....
Mr. Foxworth .....
Mr. Harbo .....
Mr. Joseph .....
Mr. Keith .....
Mr. Lester .....
Mr. Quinn .....
Mr. Schlueter .....
Mr. Tamm .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Miss Gandy .....
.....

Assistant Attorney General Jackson telephoned me and said this morning a lawyer friend of his in New York City telephoned and said that he had some information to offer relative to the above matter, and if the Federal Government is going to enter the case, he wanted to furnish it to us, but if only the State authorities were to investigate the case, he would want to furnish the information to them.

I advised Mr. Jackson that in the absence of any indication of a Federal violation in this matter, the Bureau is conducting no investigation whatsoever. Consequently, the Bureau would not be interested in the information which his friend in New York has to offer.

Respectfully,

  
E. A. TAMM.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JUN 3 1936

